

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /093 W

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R 200625Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2215

INFO CINCPAC

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CINCPAC PASS POLAD (POLAD PASS AMBASSADOR GREEN)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, AS, US

SUBJECT:AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER

1. AMBASSADOR GREEN'S 80-MINUTE MEETING WITH PRIME MIN WHITLAM
DECEMBER 19 RECEIVED PROMINENT COVERAGE IN ALL MAJOR DAILIES.
THE AGE, CANBERRA TIMES AND THE AUSTRALIAN HAD FRONT-PAGE
STORIES WITH PICTURES. ALL REPORTED THAT USEFUL EXCHANGE HAD
TAKEN PLACE ON SUBJECTS OF MUTUAL INTEREST, INCLUDING SPECIFICALLY
TRADE MINISTER CAIRNS' STATEMENTS ON US POLICY IN VIETNAM,
DEFENSE MINISTER BARNARD'S VISIT TO THE US, AND PRIMIN'S EARLIER
REMARKS REGARDING US MILITARY ALERT DURING MIDDLE EAST CRISIS.

2. TWO PAPERS (THE AUSTRALIAN AND CANBERRA NEWS) STRAYED
AFIELD, ADDING THAT NORTHWEST CAPE NEGOTIATIONS WERE DISCUSSED
IN DETAIL AND THAT AMBASSADOR STATED US POSITION THAT GOA
COULD NOT BE PERMITTED CONTROL OVER MESSAGES RELAYED BY NW CAPE
STATION.

3. COMMENT: EMPHASIS OF THE AUSTRALIAN AND CANBERRA NEWS UPON
NORTHWEST CAPE WAS EVIDENTLY BASED ON MISLEADING
REMARK TO REPORTERS BY OFFICIAL IN PRIMIN'S OFFICE OR DEPARTMENT
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OF DEFENSE AND WE HAVE MADE OUR DISPLEASURE ABOUT THIS CLEAR.

GENERAL TONE OF PRESS TREATMENT WAS RELIEF THAT FRUITFUL AND FRANK
EXCHANGE BETWEEN US AND AUSTRALIAN LEADERS HAD TAKEN PLACE
FOLLOWING PERIOD OF ALTERCATION OVER CAIRNS' AND WHITLAM'S
REMARKS.
HARROP

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